

HONORING VONNY HILTON SWEENEY

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to someone who has made celebrities while she stayed in the background. Her name is Vonny Hilton Sweeney.

She set high goals and obtained one of the most prestigious achievements by becoming the first black majorette while attending Brownsville High School in Pennsylvania. She was married to Howard James Sweeney and had one son. She worked at a community hospital in north Sacramento and received a B.A. in English and journalism from Sacramento State University. She was a contributing editor for the Sacramento Observer.

She moved to Los Angeles in 1966 to pursue her career in the entertainment industry where she was promotion coordinator for Sussex Records, vice president of promotion and publicity for Hugh Hefner's Playboy Records Company, and received her first gold record for the hit single "Falling In Love" recorded by Hamilton Joe-Frank and Reynolds. She was also a publicist for Janet DuBois and one of the first female managers for such acts.

She was the public directions director for over 25 years for James Brown entertainment including current editor of his Truth Magazine. As an icon in the James Brown organization, she was personally responsible for showcase venues worldwide, his biggest fan, as well as the dearest friend over many decades. In 1992, 1993 and 1994 she was listed in the "Who's Who" of entertainment.

As a mentor, one of her attributes was to become involved with other people's lives, and was instrumental in helping individuals achieve and reach their dreams. Her goal in life was to pursue the dreams and goals of others through her dedication and guidance in all aspects of the entertainment industry.

Vonny Hilton Sweeney was preceded in death by her loving parents James and Anna Rea Hilton and her brother James Thompson. She is survived by her son Howard James Sweeney, wife Jennifer, and granddaughter Jade Sweeney and step-grandson Justin McCarthy, brother Walter Thompson, his wife Jerri, sister Rose Alma King, sister Barbara Hilton Brown, her husband John L. plus numerous nieces, nephews and many friends.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SUPPORT THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind everybody there are only 119 days before the assault weapons ban goes back on our streets. As the Million Mom March begins its Halt the Assault tour beginning tomorrow, I think it is important to remember the support the assault weapons ban has across this country.

I want to remind people that in California, KSBW television said recently, "We call on the Congress to keep assault weapons where they belong, with our military and with our police." On the other side of the country, the Worcester Telegraph and Herald says, "Banning assault weapons in no way limits individuals' ability to buy, own, or sell legitimate sporting firearms." In the South, the New Orleans editorialized, "There's no justification for legalizing the 19 military-style weapons covered by the ban." In the Midwest, the Springfield Illinois State Journal-Register wrote, "No reasonable gun owner should oppose the Federal assault weapons ban."

All across the country, the Nation's leading newspapers are reflecting the opinion of the American people. They want the assault weapons ban renewed. Strip away the rhetoric and the polls and the focus groups, and gun violence is about destroying lives. How many more lives will we destroy by putting assault weapons back on our streets?

Each week, I get up and I say to the American people, you can make a difference. Each week, I get up and remind people that we need to have the assault weapons ban renewed. September 13 is coming up soon.

When you start talking to our police officers across the country and how involved they are in this issue, people have to remember why we passed the assault weapons ban in the first place, because our police officers were being mowed down. Assault weapons were used in killings in our schools.

We can stop this, but we need the American people's help. You can make a difference. You can make a difference. I have always said one person can make a difference, because first it is one, and then two, and it multiplies across this Nation. But we need to hear your voices. We need to have you contact your Members of Congress, the Members of the Senate.

We need to hear your voices. That is the only way we are going to get that bill up here on the House floor. The President has promised to sign the bill if it gets on his desk. We have to make sure that the bill is passed here through the House. We know we can

pass it in the Senate and have it put on the President's desk.

I personally believe it should be made permanent. I also believe that copycats of the guns that were used, say in the D.C. sniper shooting, which was the Bushmaster, should not be allowed to be copycat. I saw in the paper the other day that one of our gun manufacturers just got a very large contract for the military so that the people in Iraq, their soldiers, will have our guns. So I think we can see where the guns are going for war.

Let me remind people: AK-47s and Uzis, these are the guns you see every night on TV; these are the guns we see our young men and women use to go fight the war in Iraq. And that is where they belong, in a war, not on our streets. They should not be allowed in our communities. They certainly should not be allowed to be bought and sold by the drug gangs we have throughout this country today.

This is what we need to do. I am asking the American people for help. I will do my part here in Washington, but I need your voices across the country to make sure we have the bill come up for a vote. That will be your job: contact your representatives. Do your part. Do not always say, let them do it; you have to get involved in this issue.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MOMENTUM CONTINUES ON DRUG IMPORTATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I am not certain I can do this Special Order without my charts. It is different for me to be down here without charts, but I am going to talk about prescription drugs. And for those of us who believe that Americans ought to have access to world-class drugs at world-market prices, last week was a very good week.

In fact, let me just review some of the things that have happened just since May 4. On May 4, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said, "I think it is coming," referring to the legislation to legalize the importation of prescription drugs.

On May 5, the CEO of CVS Pharmacies, one of the largest in America, Tom Ryan, said, and I quote, "Millions of Americans have already opted to import drugs because they cannot afford not to. To do otherwise," referring to the importation legislation, "would be to ignore the millions of Americans who, as we speak, are forced to go outside our existing system, which is intended to ensure drug safety, in order